AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying at least one antisense sequence for inhibiting expression of a preselected target nucleic acid comprising:

providing a set of two or more candidate antisense sequences, wherein each candidate antisense sequence consists of 12 to 25 nucleobases and is complementary to the preselected target nucleic acid sequence;

eliminating from the set of candidate antisense sequences, any candidate antisense sequences comprising negative predictor sequence motif 5'-GGGG-3';

eliminating from the set of candidate antisense sequences, any candidate antisense sequences comprising negative predictor sequence motif 5'-GGA-3';

selecting from the set of candidate antisense sequences, at least one test sequence, comprising positive predictor sequence motif 5'-CCAC-3';

synthesizing and testing at least one test antisense oligonucleotide having a test sequence; and

thereby identifying at least one antisense sequence for inhibiting expression of the preselected target nucleic acid.

18-39. (Canceled).

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein each of the at least one test oligonucleotides is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein each of the at least one test oligonucleotides has at least one 2'-substituted nucleotide.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the testing of the test oligonucleotide is performed in vitro.

43. (New) A method of selecting, on a computer running software, an antisense sequence for inhibiting expression of a preselected target nucleic acid comprising:

providing on a computer a set of antisense sequences wherein each antisense sequence in said set consists of 12 to 25 nucleobases and is complementary to the preselected target nucleic acid sequence;

eliminating from the set of antisense sequences on the computer any antisense sequence which comprises a 5'-GGGG-3' or 5'-GGA-3' motif and which does not comprise a 5'-CCAC-3' motif; and

selecting from said set of antisense sequences on the computer after said elimination step an antisense sequence for inhibiting expression of a preselected target nucleic acid.

44. (New) A method of designing, on a computer running software, an antisense oligonucleotide with enhanced likelihood of inhibiting expression of a preselected nucleic acid target comprising:

selecting on said computer a target nucleic acid sequence from said preselected nucleic acid target for targeting by an antisense oligonucleotide, wherein said target nucleic acid sequence comprises a 5'-GTGG-3' motif and does not comprise a 5'-CCCC-3' or 5'-TCC-3' motif; and

designing on said computer said antisense oligonucleotide targeting said target nucleic acid sequence, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide consists of 12 to 25 nucleobases and is complementary to said target nucleic acid sequence.

45. (New) A method of making an antisense oligonucleotide for inhibiting expression of a preselected target nucleic acid comprising synthesizing an antisense oligonucleotide, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide has a nucleotide sequence that was selected by the method of claim 43.

46. (New) A method of making an antisense oligonucleotide with enhanced likelihood of inhibiting expression of a preselected nucleic acid target comprising synthesizing an antisense oligonucleotide, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide was designed by the method of claim 45.